

Supplemental Appendix

Table S1 – Use, obtain information, interest receiving information, and interest in asking a physician through ICT types by country.

	Ecuador (n=238)	Argentina (n=232)	Mexico (n=124)	Peru- Venezuela (n=79)	Chi- square p-value	Total (n=673)
Owning						
Internet Access	61.8	75.9	86.6	90.8	<0.001	76.6
Cellphone	86.6	90.9	93.5	97.1	0.061	91.2
Smartphone	46.9	50.6	94.5	65.8	<0.001	59.5
Use of ICT type (at least once a week)						
SMS	64.4	73.3	90.2	40	<0.001	69.9
Facebook	41.3	57.3	65.6	41.1	<0.001	51.4
Twitter	19.8	12.7	28.7	34.7	<0.001	19.9
YouTube	25.1	36.1	40.2	37.7	0.029	33.4
Email	31.4	50.6	80.2	31.7	<0.001	47.9
Internet	43	61.6	87	39.4	<0.001	56.8
LinkedIn	7.4	1.7	28.6	53.2	<0.001	14.1
Skype	15.1	8.3	28.9	47.1	<0.001	18.1
Use ICT to obtain information about disease						
Internet	32.5	40.9	42.5	67.6	<0.001	41.5
Facebook	6.4	9.6	4.9	27.5	<0.001	9.3
Twitter	2.2	1.7	4.8	4.3	0.357	2.6
YouTube	10.9	6.1	5.7	16.3	0.043	8.5
Email	6.7	10	29.1	23.5	<0.001	13.6
Interest in receiving information through ICT type (high/some interest)						
SMS	84.6	41.9	50.9	47.5	<0.001	58.5
Facebook	29.5	35.1	18.3	51.7	<0.001	32
Twitter	7.8	6.6	10.5	54.5	<0.001	11.6
LinkedIn	6	1.8	3	57.9	<0.001	7.6
Email	34.2	45.9	55.4	42.9	<0.001	43.6
WhatsApp	42.2	65.5	75	80.9	<0.001	61.5
Interest in asking physician through ICT type (high/some interest)						
SMS	84.6	45.2	53.1	46.6	<0.001	60
Facebook	28.9	32.2	18.1	50	<0.01	30.4
Twitter	7.2	6.2	6.7	41.5	<0.001	9.3
LinkedIn	4.6	2.7	4	55.9	<0.001	7.5
Email	35.9	43.5	47.3	40.7	0.23	41.5
WhatsApp	41.3	60.4	69.2	83.1	<0.001	58.4

Notes: All data are presented as percentages. Differences in values between the 4 country groups are significant at 0.05 significance level.

Table S2 – Use, obtain information, interest receiving information, and interest in asking a physician through ICT types by education level.

	No education/ Elementary (n=132)	High School (n=288)	Undergraduate/ Postgraduate (n=252)	Chi-square p-value	Total (n=672)
Owning					
Internet Access	41.4	75.8	93.5	<0.001	76.6
Cellphone	70.7	93.2	98.2	<0.001	91.2
Smartphone	26	53.3	80.6	<0.001	59.6
Use of ICT type (at least once a week)					
SMS	40	73.7	80	<0.001	69.9
Facebook	23.7	48	68.9	<0.001	51.3
Twitter	5.1	14.7	30.7	<0.001	19.9
YouTube	12.2	28.3	50	<0.001	33.4
Email	13.2	36.4	76.5	<0.001	47.9
Internet	25	51	79.5	<0.001	56.7
LinkedIn	0	8.6	24.9	<0.001	14.1
Skype	2.6	12.5	29.9	<0.001	18.1
Use ICT to obtain information about disease					
Internet	18.6	41.5	52.7	<0.001	41.5
Facebook	6.2	11.5	7.9	0.197	9.1
Twitter	2.7	1.2	4.2	0.143	2.6
YouTube	3.5	7	12.7	0.009	8.5
Email	8.8	12.6	17.1	0.099	13.6
Interest in receiving information through ICT type (high/some interest)					
SMS	56.1	64.2	52.9	0.038	58.4
Facebook	13.5	33.3	40.1	<0.001	32
Twitter	0.9	10.3	18.6	<0.001	11.6
LinkedIn	0	8.6	9.8	0.021	7.6
Email	11.4	39.5	63.9	<0.001	43.6
WhatsApp	35.6	60.5	73.9	<0.001	61.5
Interest in asking physician through ICT type (high/some interest)					
SMS	55.4	63.3	58.3	0.293	59.9
Facebook	18.3	30.5	36.3	0.004	30.4
Twitter	2.8	6.2	15.9	<0.001	9.3
LinkedIn	4.1	5.8	10.5	0.119	7.5
Email	13.6	35.2	61.6	<0.001	41.5
WhatsApp	30.6	57.4	71.6	<0.001	58.4

Notes: All data are presented as percentages. Differences in values between the 3 educational level groups are significant at 0.05 significance level.

Table S3 – Use, obtain information, interest receiving information, and interest in asking a physician through ICT types by gender.

	Male (n=213)	Female (n=460)	Chi-square p-value	Total (n=673)
Owning				
Internet Access	79.2	75.0	0.257	76.6
Cellphone	92.4	90.5	0.451	91.2
Smartphone	60.9	58.8	0.628	59.5
Use of ICT type (at least once a week)				
SMS	70.9	69.4	0.694	69.9
Facebook	60.4	47.0	0.002	51.4
Twitter	20.9	19.3	0.678	19.9
YouTube	44.4	28.0	<0.001	33.4
Email	56.6	43.9	0.004	47.9
Internet	67.4	51.6	<0.001	56.8
LinkedIn	16.5	12.5	0.229	14.1
Skype	21.5	15.8	0.120	18.1
Use ICT to obtain information about disease				
Internet	50.5	37.4	0.002	41.5
Facebook	12.4	7.8	0.076	9.3
Twitter	3.8	2.1	0.262 ^a	2.6
YouTube	9.2	8.1	0.660	8.5
Email	18.1	11.4	0.033	13.6
Interest in receiving information through ICT type (high/some interest)				
SMS	43.9	65.3	<0.001	58.5
Facebook	30.6	32.7	0.619	32.0
Twitter	12.6	11.1	0.603	11.6
LinkedIn	10.5	5.7	0.066	7.6
Email	47.3	41.9	0.215	43.6
WhatsApp	65.9	59.5	0.149	61.5
Interest in asking physician through ICT type (high/some interest)				
SMS	45.0	66.9	<0.001	60.0
Facebook	30.4	30.3	0.98	30.4
Twitter	8.7	9.6	0.754	9.3
LinkedIn	8.3	7.0	0.624	7.5
Email	43.1	40.7	0.593	41.5
WhatsApp	66.1	54.9	0.013	58.4

Notes: All data are presented as percentages. Differences in values between the two gender groups are significant at 0.05 significance level.

^a. Fisher exact test performed.

Table S4 – Logistic regression: use, obtain information, interest in receiving information, and interest in asking a physician through ICT types by age/educational level.

	Young ^a OR (95% CI)	Adult ^a OR (95% CI)	High School ^b OR (95% CI)	Undergraduate/ Postgraduate ^b OR (95% CI)
Use of ICT type (at least once a week)				
SMS	0.54 (0.30-0.96)	NS	4.74 (2.88-7.81)	5.70 (3.32-9.78)
Facebook	2.45 (1.39-4.30)	3.23 (2.11-4.93)	2.34 (1.37-4.00)	5.62 (3.20-9.85)
Twitter	7.54 (3.39-16.75)	3.54 (1.96-6.42)	NS	6.31 (2.07-19.27)
YouTube	3.96 (2.13-7.39)	4.88 (3.11-7.64)	NS	4.69 (2.35-9.36)
Email	NS	1.92 (1.24-2.98)	3.20 (1.71-5.97)	18.88 (9.81-36.34)
Internet	2.23 (1.24-4.03)	2.26 (1.45-3.52)	2.53 (1.50-4.26)	10.15 (5.72-18.01)
LinkedIn	6.70 (2.41-18.62)	4.06 (1.98-8.35)	NS	NS
Skype	5.57 (2.32-13.38)	3.49 (1.86-6.54)	NS	11.33 (2.55-50.27)
Use ICT to obtain information about disease				
Internet	2.52 (1.47-4.32)	1.92 (1.30-2.84)	2.65 (1.51-4.65)	4.28 (2.40-7.62)
Facebook	NS	2.04 (0.99-4.20)	NS	NS
Twitter	NS	NS	NS	NS
YouTube	2.82 (1.08-7.36)	2.35 (1.15-4.80)	NS	NS
Email	NS	NS	NS	2.35 (1.07-5.15)
Interest in receiving information through ICT type (high/some interest)				
SMS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Facebook	2.75 (1.51-5.00)	2.90 (1.88-4.48)	2.35 (1.23-4.50)	3.22 (1.66-6.26)
Twitter	26.59 (9.44-74.93)	6.07 (2.57-14.33)	NS	18.79 (2.35-150.37)
LinkedIn	20.75 (5.64-76.37)	3.79 (1.17-12.23)	NS	NS
Email	1.24 (0.70-2.20)	1.63 (1.08-2.45)	4.36 (2.29-8.31)	11.73 (6.06-22.69)
Interest in asking physician through ICT type (high/some interest)				
SMS	NS	NS	NS	1.19 (0.72-1.96)
Facebook	3.69 (2.05-6.65)	2.45 (1.58-3.80)	NS	2.05 (1.11-3.78)
Twitter	12.21 (4.29-34.79)	5.05 (2.17-11.75)	NS	3.62 (1.08-14.28)
LinkedIn	16.80 (4.97-56.79)	3.56 (1.17-10.81)	NS	NS
Email	NS	1.66 (1.11-2.49)	3.01 (1.62-5.58)	8.66 (4.61-16.26)
Interest in receiving information through WhatsApp				
Interested	3.16 (1.71-5.82)	2.54 (1.64-3.95)	2.13 (1.28-3.57)	3.79 (2.20-6.54)
Interest in asking physician through WhatsApp				
Interested	2.69 (1.49-4.85)	2.67 (1.73-4.13)	2.42 (1.42-4.13)	4.26 (2.43-7.47)

Notes: Regression analysis was adjusted for variables such as age, gender, educational level and years with asthma. All values displayed are significant at 0.05 significance level. OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; NS, non-significant.

^a. Reference age category is old adult.

^b. Reference educational level category is No education/Elementary.